

## Abstract

Techniques for control word prediction and speculative execution. In one  
5 embodiment, an apparatus includes a control word predictor, execution resources, and a  
comparison module. The control word predictor of this embodiment predicts a predicted  
control word for execution of operations in response to a control word changing  
operation. The execution resources of this embodiment speculatively execute the  
plurality of operations utilizing the predicted control word, and the comparison module  
10 determines if the predicted control word matches an actual control word set by the control  
word changing operation or a plurality of other control words, and to cause re-execution  
of said plurality of operations if said actual control word matches any of the plurality of  
other control words.